



The Old Ironsides Report



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Comedian Drew Carey lifts soldiers' spirits during USO show

Story by Cpl. Todd Pruden, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – It only seems fitting that a comedian pays a visit in a combat zone. Bob Hope did it for so many years and touched the hearts of so many soldiers in combat operations for decades. Because of his death this year, the torch had to be passed on to keep his spirit and memories alive. Drew Carey helped fulfill that role.

The Drew Carey Comedy Tour put on by the United Services Organization ripped through Iraq, creating smiles and laughter throughout the country for soldiers serving in Iraq. Comedy routines along with performances by the 1st Armored Division Show Band gave soldiers the opportunity to relax and have fun. With cold sodas in hand and ivory teeth visible, the show appeared to be a hit with the military personnel.

"It's good to get a laugh," said Spc. Joseph Duffy, a food service specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division. "With everything going on here, we don't get a lot of time to just sit and laugh."

The comedians that performed include Drew Carey, Kathy Kinney, who plays Mimi on "The Drew Carey Show", Blake Clark, whom had bit parts in the television show, "Home Improvement", Kyle Dunnigan, Andres Fernandez, Jeff Ross and Rocky LaPorte.

Comedy bit topics performed included military life serving in Iraq, the differences between Southerners and Northerners, family life, and the latest headlines.



Comedian Drew Carey holds up a plaque presented in appreciation to him by Brig. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, 1st Armored Division Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver. Carey and six other comedians visited 1st Armored Division soldiers Sept. 27. (Photos by Spc. Shauna McRoberts, 1 AD PAO.)

"The show was good for morale," said Duffy. "It's good to see celebrities come out. It shows that people back home really do care."

And Drew Carey agrees with that.

"Everyone loves you back home," Carey said.

"Everyone supports you."

In addition to their performances, Carey and the other comedians on the tour held autograph sessions and photography opportunities for soldiers. Other sites the tour made stops at included the Coalition Provisional Authority, Camp Saylor, Camp Victory, Camp Dogwood, Camp Falcon, Muleskinner and Baghdad International Airport. Carey also toured and had a meal at the new Bob Hope Dining Facility.



(Left) Drew Carey poses with Spc. Perry Fornell, A Company, 94th Engineer Bn. and Brig. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, 1 AD Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver, inside the Bob Hope Dining Facility at Baghdad International Airport Sept. 27. Like Carey, Fornell and Scaparrotti are natives of Ohio.

NEWS

Alleged al-Qaida Tape Denounces 'Crusade'

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - An audiotape attributed to al-Qaida deputy Ayman al-Zawahri and broadcast on Al-Jazeera satellite television Sunday accused the United States of trying to abolish Islam. The tape appeared to be recent, as the speaker referred to a visit by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to India earlier this month and the Sept. 6 resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

Ailing Pope Appoints 31 New Cardinals

VATICAN CITY (AP) - Amid concerns about his frail health, Pope John Paul II appointed 31 cardinals Sunday, acting months earlier than expected and strengthening his influence on the group that will choose his successor. The new "princes" of the church include senior Vatican officials and diocesan leaders from 20 countries. They will receive their red hats at a ceremony known as a consistory on Oct. 21 - a date chosen to coincide with the weeklong celebrations marking John Paul's 25th anniversary as pope.

U.S. Probes Leak of CIA Agent's Identity

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Justice Department is investigating allegations that White House officials revealed the identity of a CIA agent whose husband had questioned President Bush's claim that Iraq had tried to buy uranium from Africa. The matter has been referred to the department, which "will now take appropriate action, whatever that is," national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Hurricane Heads for Landfall in Canada

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) - Hurricane Juan headed for landfall in Nova Scotia on Sunday with wind gusts up to 120 mph, threatening wave surges of 5 feet on the coast, forecasters said. Canadian officials issued hurricane wind warnings for Nova Scotia, though Juan was expected to weaken as it hits colder waters before hitting the shore.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: **The Melody Within**

We often hum and sing to ourselves because it makes us feel content. It is the melody itself that makes us feel good--words and thoughts do not matter.

Having hope for ourselves and for our universe is like having a melody always moving inside us. The melody may be calm or exciting, but most of all it brings with it beauty and a sense of peace. Hope can overcome the need for words and thoughts and promises. Hope is the melody that keeps us going, the hum that continues even when there are no words to the song. Hope is not a melody we think about--it comes when we believe in the goodness of God. Our faith in God helps us find the melody of hope inside us at all times.

SPORTS

Women's World Cup First Round Wraps Up

VOA News -- The first round of the Women's World Cup soccer tournament is wrapping up in the United States. The results are separating the teams that are advancing to the quarterfinal round from the ones that are going home.

Brazil has won its group in the Women's World Cup on Saturday, moving to the next round with a 1-1 tie against France. Brazil also had two wins to finish first in Group-B, which means it will likely avoid an immediate contest against defending champion US. The Brazilians will play the second-place team from Group-A in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

The Brazilians, showing the youthful flair so often displayed by their men's World Cup champion team, scored eight goals and allowed just two in three games. In Washington Saturday, Katia scored her fourth goal of the tournament in the 58th minute, capitalizing on a rare error by otherwise outstanding French goalkeeper Celine Marty.

France, with one previous win and one loss, salvaged a draw in the second-half injury time when Marinette Pichon scored from 12 meters. Pichon scored the French team's only two goals in the tournament.

In the second game at RFK stadium, Maren Meinert had two goals and two assists as Germany completed an undefeated first round by dominating Argentina, 6-1. Germany easily won Group-C, outscoring its opponents, 13-2, and will play the second-place team from Group-D in the quarterfinals Thursday in Portland, Oregon. Argentina was eliminated with no wins.

Two more games were played Saturday in Foxboro, Massachusetts, where Norway advanced with a 7-1 rout of South Korea. Norwegians Dagny Mellgren and Linda Ormen each had two goals. The game total of eight goals matched a Women's World Cup record, accomplished five other times.

Norway finished second in Group-B to Brazil. Norway, ranked second in the world, will likely play the US in Foxboro if the Americans beat or tie North Korea on Sunday. Norway has won the only two major international tournaments not won by the US - the 1995 World Cup and the 2000 Olympics. Norway also is the only team in the World Cup with a winning record against the US.

Canada advanced to the quarterfinals by using its height and a tie-breaking goal by Christine Sinclair to rally for a 3-1 victory over Japan. In the next round Canada, which finished second in Group-C with two wins and one loss, will play Thursday in Portland. The opponent will be either Russia or China, who face each other Sunday to determine which will win Group-D.

Safety Tip of the day...

Practice Rollover Drills

- Maintain Name Tag Defilade
- Alert Crew of Rollover
- Know Where to Brace Yourself
- Secure All Equipment
- Wear Seat Belts